Week Four Reflection (Wiki Update)

This week I didn’t “learn” as much rather the readings, videos and discussions, refreshed my memory on concepts that I knew about. For instance, the topic of project-based learning (cooperative or collaborative learning) with the integration of technology was a major focus this week. Project–based learning or project learning, engages students so that they learn collaboration and social skills, construct new knowledge through peer interactions, develop confidence, prepares them for the real world, and ultimately they cooperate with one another so that learning takes place and they retain that knowledge. Web resources for project learning are numerous. “Adopting a project-learning approach in your classroom or school can invigorate your curriculum with a real-world relevance and sparking students’ desire to explore, investigate, and understand their world” (Edutopia Staff, 2008). While I know students love projects in general, we have not done as many as I would like. Therefore, I need to adjust my lesson plans so more of this type of learning can be done on a regular basis.

Two key points that I would like to emphasize and will remember when I become a technology leader is that in order for technology professional development to be successful, it must be ongoing and meet the teachers where they are and that teachers don’t have to know everything about a technology before allowing students to explore the technology.

One interesting video was High Tech High Taking the Lead :An Interview with Larry Rosenstock. He was basically stating the elements of his high tech high school model which integrated students across socioeconomic backgrounds, “head and hand”, the school with community, secondary and post secondary education, technology and education, the various disciplines (increased time in one class), built in teacher collaboration time (in the morning), common teacher planning times, and respect for all.

References:

Edutopia.org (2008). Why teach with project based learning?:Providing students with a well-rounded classroom experience. Retrieved on Feb. 28, 2008 from http://edutopia.org.

Edutopia.org(nd) High Tech High Taking the Lead :An Interview with Larry Rosenstock. Retrieved Oct 5, 2009 from http://edutopia.org/collaboration-age-technology-larry-rosenstock-video.